

While some critics may complain about the cost involved in scanning these cargo containers, we cannot afford to be penny wise and pound foolish when it comes to our security. We must make the necessary investments. The added cost of security in our post 9/11 era is the price we must pay to protect American lives and our Nation. If we do not make this investment, the cost could be much higher not just in dollars but in lives.

And finally, among other critical needs addressed by the 9/11 Commission, is the need to significantly increase the number of state homeland security grants and award them on the basis of risk. While it is true we must make every effort to protect all parts of our country, given our limited funds, we must prioritize our security weaknesses and allocate these scarce funds first to the areas most at risk of an attack.

It was therefore welcomed news that late last week the Department of Homeland Security has announced it will commit more than 55 percent of urban area grant funds to the six urban areas facing the highest threat of terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, as the former Homeland Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman HAL ROGERS often stated, "those who seek to harm us have to get it right only occasionally, while those of us working to protect America have to get it right 100 percent of the time. Fully implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission is a critical step toward "getting it right" and moving our Nation forward to our 100 percent goal of protecting our United States of America.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MIRIAM AYLLON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise, along with Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, to honor the life and contributions of Mrs. Miriam Ayllon, who recently passed away. Miriam is survived by her son, Huascar Castro, and her loving husband, Marvin Castro. She will be sorely missed by her friends and by the people she helped. Today, I honor her energy, her determination, and her lifelong service to many communities here in the United States and in Bolivia.

Miriam Ayllon was born in La Paz, Bolivia, on June 14, 1959. At the age of 13, she began volunteering at a nursing home across the street from her school reading to elderly patients. Miriam grew up wanting to make a difference in the lives of the poor and the underserved.

Miriam moved to the United States in 1977 to live with relatives. She attended both Foothill and De Anza Colleges in California. Later, she moved to Houston, where she studied economics at the University of Houston. Soon after graduation, she moved to New York where she met her husband, Marvin Castro. In New York, she helped start an English as a Second Language school.

In 1988, Ms. Ayllon and her husband relocated to San Jose, California, where they later

had their son, Huascar. In San Jose, she joined the Mexican American Community Service Agency (MACSA), where she helped senior citizens find affordable housing and worked to build a youth center. Later, she worked at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (SCVTA). At SCVTA, she helped coordinate transportation for the poor, especially those in East San Jose. She also managed to earn a Masters of Science degree in Transportation Management from San Jose State University.

Ms. Ayllon also served her community through personal volunteerism and community projects. Miriam's community advocacy included empowering others to advocate for themselves. She co-founded the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley and served on its board, as well as the School Site Council of Noble Elementary School, and the Board of MACSA.

Though the United States was her home, Miriam never forgot her Bolivian roots. In 2001, she founded an orphanage for homeless girls in Cochabamba, Bolivia, called Casa de la Alegria ("House of Joy"). The girls are provided with room, board, health care, clothing, and education until they graduate from high school.

Ms. Ayllon had the vision to address broader issues, yet she remained grounded enough to respond to the needs of those immediately around her. When an SCVTA co-worker's home burned down, Miriam immediately dedicated her time and effort to raising money and collecting necessary supplies for the family that had lost so much.

Miriam always made time for family and friends. Despite her important work in so many different professional and community arenas, her most important role was being a mother to her 15-year-old son. She loved to go dancing with friends and set up family dinners on Sundays.

Miriam was a gentle and loving soul, committed to justice for all. Her involvement in so many projects, which focused on access for the underserved, was a reflection of that commitment. Miriam's compassion was equaled only by her strength. She left a lasting impression on anyone she came across and was a strong champion of women's leadership development.

Miriam Ayllon died at the young age of 47 in a tragic accident while vacationing in Bolivia. When she passed away, the San Francisco Bay area lost one of its most dynamic leaders. Miriam was an advocate for women and the underserved from San Jose to South America. She will truly be missed by all those who had the opportunity to benefit from her generous service and those of us who were inspired by her commitment to community.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my support for the H.R. 3, Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. This bill will enable continuing scientific research on embryonic stem cells that will pro-

vide enhanced treatments and potential cures for the millions of Americans afflicted with chronic and debilitating diseases.

The benefits that stem cell research promises can dramatically enhance the quality of life for people suffering from spinal cord injuries, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, among many others. It will allow these Americans and their families the opportunity to enjoy healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Stem cell research has the support of over 100 million people suffering from these diseases, medical professionals, and the American people. With over 200 health organizations, research universities, advocacy groups and scientific societies supporting stem cell research, it is the responsibility of the United States government to listen and actively ensure progress in the field of medicine in saving people's lives.

In the Republican controlled 109th Congress, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 was passed in the House, later to be vetoed by President Bush. This administration cannot continue to impede the efforts of sound scientific research based on ideological beliefs. In an age of tremendous technological and scientific advances, we must allow the medical community to engage in research that will benefit all Americans.

This legislation provides strict ethical guidelines for the usage of embryonic stem cells to further medical research. The stem cells will be donated from in vitro fertilization clinics that have an excess of stem cells from individuals no longer needing fertility treatment. Individuals that sought fertility treatment were consulted before the donation of stem cells, and it was determined that these stem cells would never be used in future treatment and would thus be discarded. In addition, individuals donating stem cells did so with written informed consent and were not paid any monetary compensation or given any other incentives to do so.

These individuals have offered their support in enhancing further research through their donations, and we ought to follow by ensuring that their contribution to stem cell research help those who suffer.

The medical and science community see the potential of this research to treat people with damage to the spinal cord, heart, brain and skeletal muscles. Those who suffer from genetic diseases, those whose life depends on organ transplants, and those who are ravaged by the affects of degenerative diseases will benefit from the research performed on embryonic stem cells.

It is our responsibility to support legislation that will provide the resources to improve the lives of Americans who suffer everyday. I commend my colleagues for readdressing this issue, and urge you to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the College Student Relief Act of 2007, a bill that will deliver much needed relief for students and families.

The College Student Relief Act of 2007 cuts interest rates in half phased in over 5 years starting July 1, 2007.

This proposal will provide debt relief for over five million students and families by cutting interest rates in half for undergraduate borrowers of subsidized loans.

In keeping with our promise to be fiscally responsible, this bill provides offsets in full compliance with our newly passed PAYGO rules.

Madam speaker, as you know college affordability is one of the most important issues facing students and families. With the significant increases in tuition over the last five years our nation's students and families will finally get some much needed help with their student loans.

Millions of college students and parents of college students are struggling to come up with the financial resources to pay for college.

And many would-be students—as many as 200,000 per year—are choosing to delay or forgo attending college altogether because they can't afford it.

This debt problem affects all of us. Public service professions like teaching are suffering, because graduates cannot manage their college debt on public service salaries. Nearly a quarter of recent college graduates have too much debt to manage on a starting teacher's salary.

This poses a serious threat not just to students and families, but to our Nation's economy and to the future of our workforce.

Today, we are finally taking our Nation's students and families in a New Direction by making college affordability a top priority.

Once fully phased in, these cuts will save the typical borrower with \$13,800 in needbased federal loan debt roughly \$4,400 over the life of their loan.

In my home State of California, this bill will save the typical borrower \$4,830 over the life of their loan.

This will be an important first step towards making college more affordable and accessible for millions of low-income and middle class students.

As Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, one of our top priorities will be to continue to lower college costs for all qualified students.

I look forward to seeing this bill pass through the House with overwhelming support and bringing help to our students and families.

WISE WORDS ON THE ECONOMY
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
NEW YORK FED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Tim Geithner, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, combined economic and political wisdom in a recent speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in which, according to the report of the speech in the Financial Times, he told that influential audience “that the ‘political challenge’ of sustaining support for integrating global economic integration ‘may be the most important economic challenge of our time.’”

Mr. Geithner came to his current position with significant experience in the Treasury De-

partment during the Clinton Administration, which makes him very well-positioned to understand how economic and political forces interact, and even more important, how they should interact if we are to achieve what is our national goal economically—significant growth that is widely shared.

I very much appreciate Mr. Geithner's thoughtful words, and I hope that people concerned about economic growth will accept the validity of his point so that we can all act together accordingly.

[From the Financial Times]

WAGES GAP ‘UNDERMINES SUPPORT FOR FREE
TRADE’

(By Krishna Guha in Washington)

The widening gap between the rich and middle-class Americans is undermining political support for free trade in the US, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, warned yesterday.

Tim Geithner told the Council on Foreign Relations that the “political challenge” of sustaining support for further global economic integration “may be the most important economic challenge of our time.”

The New York Fed chief also warned that the inflow of surplus savings from abroad could be distorting US asset prices and keeping risk premiums artificially low across financial markets.

His comments were made amid growing concern in US political and business circles over the risk of a populist backlash against free trade caused by rising inequality and a protracted period of stagnation in median wages—the wages earned by the average US worker.

While recent data show real wage growth has at last picked up, many economists fear this could be short-lived.

Mr. Geithner said maintaining support for open markets would be made more difficult “because of what has happened to the distribution of income and economic insecurity”.

He cited as big political problems the “long-term increase in income inequality”, the “slow pace of growth in real wages for the middle quintiles of the population”, increased volatility in income and the greater exposure of families to risks involved in financing retirement and healthcare.

Echoing views expressed by Larry Summers, his former boss as Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration, Mr. Geithner said it was “not enough to explain that globalisation is inevitable” and protectionist policies were self-defeating.

Better education and an improved safety net were a “necessary part of the solution to this challenge”. But, he warned, “these reforms will have a long fuse and they may not yield the hoped-for increase in support”.

Mr. Geithner cautioned that the low level of risk premiums across asset markets was “unusual” and might not prove lasting.

He said there were many sound reasons why risk premiums might be low, including better monetary policy, strong underlying productivity growth and better risk-sharing across more globally integrated financial markets.

But he warned that the inflow of surplus savings from abroad—including “very substantial official accumulation of dollar reserves” by countries seeking to maintain fixed exchange rates—could be distorting asset prices, sending the wrong signals to savers and investors.

Mr. Geithner said these forces were “surely transitory” but could “mask or dampen the effect on risk premiums in financial markets that we might otherwise expect”, given the huge US trade deficit and its long-term fiscal challenges.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT HASKINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Scott Haskins on successfully swimming the English Channel. It is considered one of the most challenging swims in the world. This has been accomplished by fewer than 850 swimmers. Scott, a California native, became the first in the Haskins family to swim the English Channel.

Scott Haskins was born on July 3, 1964. His father Sam Haskins, my first cousin, and mother Judy Chapman Haskins live in the San Francisco Bay area. Scott has a sister Eliza and brother John, and is married to wife Elizabeth “Timmie” Friend.

Scott learned to swim at the age of 4 in a swimming pool and began swimming in the ocean at the age of 5. Scott swam butterfly and freestyle events competitively from age 11 to 20. He first began swimming open water events in 1990—mostly one and two mile swims in the San Francisco Bay Area. Scott swam his first long distance open water swim in 1994.

In 1995, Scott achieved the level of All American Long Distance Swimmer with the U.S. Masters Swimming in 1995 and 1996. On August 3, 1996, Scott swam around the island of Manhattan, a distance of 28.5 miles.

In 2006, Scott trained for 6 months at the Dolphin Club in San Francisco, California. His training included daily swimming as well as a 6-hour swim, an 8-hour swim, and a 10-hour swim in preparation to swim the English Channel.

On August 16th, with brother John on board the boat *Galivant*, Scott began to swim across the English Channel toward France. Scott finished with an official time of 10 hours and 25 minutes. Scott's time is in the top 18 percent of the fastest Channel swims.

To celebrate his great accomplishment, Scott with his family at his side, went to a tavern in Dover, England that is frequented by swimmers and a place where many have “signed in” on the walls and ceiling after completing their Channel swims. Scott also “signed in” on the ceiling next to the other Channel swimmers from San Francisco's Dolphin Club.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Scott Haskins on successfully swimming the English Channel and to recognize him for this outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. GILCREST. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 20, I would have voted “aye.”